



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

Dunrae Gardens ("DG") Governing Board ("GB" or "Board") Minutes for November 26, 2024

Present:

- 1) Noémie Battista
- 2) Alison Beck ("**Chair**")
- 3) Bertin Bateng Tcheunkwa
- 4) Despina Michakis ("**Principal**")
- 5) Kelly Chatzis
- 6) Vanessa Contenta
- 7) Tina Lanni
- 8) Daniel Gervais
- 9) Mary Kyres
- 10) Mélissane Mathieu
- 11) Lena Stuart
- 12) Diana Theophilopoulos
- 13) Éric Pauzé
- 14) Melanie Carreira – replacing Lena Stuart

Absent:

- 1) Amel Hadjoudj
- 2) Emmanuel Koinoglu – substitute

Guests:

- 1) Paula Kilian, EMSB School Commissioner Ward 9 and former DG parent

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the Agenda (Tina Lanni, Vanessa Contenta)

Motion passes unanimously

3. Governing Board Operations

Motion to adopt the Minutes of Meeting of October 22, 2024 (Daniel Gervais, Mary Kyres)

Motion passes unanimously



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

4. Principal's Report

- a) The Principal began by presenting our guest Paula Kilian, the newly appointed EMSB school commissioner for DG's district.
- b) The Principal also thanked DG parents for helping organize a highly successful Halloween event in the gym. Students also decorated pumpkins. The class with the "best pumpkin" won a Pizza party. There were also prizes awarded to students with the most creative costume.
- c) Cycle 3 students attended the Dynamix camp. It was a 2-day, 1-night trip (October 24-25, 2024). The students and staff really enjoyed the activities, setting and food.
- d) DG received funds from the government to be used to help students who are falling behind academically. The funds must be spent by the end of November 2024. DG has already used all the funds, and a request has been made for an additional grant. Moreover, an MEQ tutoring program will commence shortly to assist at-risk students. Three tutors have been hired to assist teachers within the classroom and/or provide individual tutoring to certain students.
- e) DG is launching a Playground Leadership Program. Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 may apply to become a "leader". The selected students will undergo training to animate and teach games and activities to younger students during recess time.
- f) In 2025, preschool students will be offered 8 "Kind Kids" workshops within the classroom with the objective of fostering kindness and empathy.
- g) On November 4, 2024, DG held a Remembrance Day ceremony. Several special guests were invited, including former military personnel. Students learned about the sacrifices made by soldiers and were invited to pin poppies on a wreath.
- h) In October 2024, DG Student Council organized a breast cancer fundraiser. Students were asked to donate \$2 and received a pink ribbon sticker. Over \$550 was raised.
- i) On November 15, 2024, DG Student Council organized a "Movember" fundraiser to raise funds for men's cancers. The exact amount of money raised is currently being calculated.
- j) A multi-disciplinary meeting was held with the various professionals who provide support to DG (speech therapists, psychologists, etc.). The purpose of the meeting was to identify students who require additional support and/or an IEP catered to their specific needs.
- k) Parent-Teacher interviews were held on November 21, 2024. Most parents attended these in-person teacher meetings.



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

- l) In collaboration with DG's art teacher Mr. Mike and the DGFA, the school staircases are being painted and inspirational decal is being added in both English and French. Sports-themed decals will also be added in the gym.
- m) Several successful field trips and activities took place in November 2024:
 - On November 3rd, Grades 3 to 6 enjoyed a Black Theatre Workshop production entitled "Taking Care of Maman";
 - On November 8th, Grade 1 students attended the Insectarium and Biodome;
 - Also on November 8th, Grade 3 students attended Château Ramezay, a museum and historic building in Old Montreal;
 - On November 15th, Grade 4 students attended the Musée des Beaux-Arts;
- n) On December 10, 2024, motivation speaker Alain Pelletier will come speak to Grades 1 to 6 about anti-bullying.
- o) DG has applied for grants for the following cultural activities to take place at the school in 2025:
 - *Educazoo* for Preschoolers (January 10th);
 - *Bibite mobile* for Preschoolers (March 21st);
 - *Comedy for Kids* with Jeff Schouela (January);
 - Geordie Theatre Productions for Cycles 2 and 3 (January 30th);
 - Lydia Loukidis, former DG parent and author of children's books (March 17th and 18th, Cycle 2);
 - Artist Peter Gibson will work with Mr. Mike to create an art mural for the school (date to be confirmed); and
 - Gumboots and Tam-Tam sessions (January);

The grants, if awarded, would cover 75% of the cost of each of the aforementioned activities.

5. Business Arising

5.1. GB Internal Rules of Management

Motion to adopt the Internal Rules of Management (Daniel Gervais, Tina Lanni)

Motion passes unanimously

6. New Business

6.1. MTransport

DG is launching the MTransport app whereby parents can track their children's location while on the school bus. Students will be asked to scan their bus pass upon boarding the bus.



6.2. Action Plan for Education Project

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Education Project was adopted. This academic year, DG must outline how the objectives set out in the Education Project will be achieved. The Principal will meet with a team of teachers to establish this action plan. As required, the Principal will present the action plan to GB for approval in the near future.

6.3. Increase Representation Fund (Budget)

In recognition of the staff's hard work and dedication, the Principal requested that \$2,500 be transferred from Fund 5 (DG's general fund) to the Representation Fund. This additional amount would be used to offer a few meals to the teachers during the school year.

Motion to approve the increase to the Representation Fund as set forth above (Vanessa Contenta, Daniel Gervais)

Motion passes unanimously

6.4. Collection of Goods to Donate

In December 2024, DG would like to collect food and other goods for Sun Youth. A collection box will be placed in each homeroom. Certain indigenous communities have also reached out to DG, asking for support in collecting winter clothing. The details of these programs will be communicated to students by members of DG Student Council.

Motion to approve the collection of goods as set forth above (Tina Lanni, Melanie Carreira)

Motion passes unanimously

6.5. Fundraising Requests

6.5.1. Dunrae Gardens Family Association ("DGFA") Felix and Norton Cookie Fundraiser

Please see below.

6.5.2. DGFA Teacher Appreciation

Sections 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 were discussed jointly.



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

Mary Kyres presented on behalf of the DGFA. The DGFA would like to hold a fundraiser whereby parents will be asked to purchase Felix and Norton cookies, as detailed in the Fundraising Request Form. This fundraiser is hoping to raise \$1,500 and would take place around Valentine's Day.

Mrs. Kyres also presented the DGFA's plan for Teacher Appreciation Week. The DGFA would like to raise money to purchase items for teachers from their "wish list", as well as other treats and gifts. The DGFA is looking to raise \$3,000.

The Principal indicated that the staff room will be renovated following the donation of a kitchen (cabinets and flooring) by a parent.

Motion to approve the fundraising requests as set forth above (Kelly Chatzis, Daniel Gervais)

Motion passes unanimously

7. Reports

7.1. Central Parents Committee ("CPC") Report

Daniel Gervais presented on behalf of the CPC. Mr. Gervais provided the following summary of CPC's last meeting:

- GB can be used to lobby the government to recognize Remembrance Day as a holiday.
- Schools can work with Indigenous leaders for various initiatives, such as Orange Shirt Day.
- Certain schools have created a sensory room for students who may benefit from this type of resource.
- An incident occurred at another school whereby certain Grade 2 students were using a cell phone to view inappropriate content. In this regard, the Principal mentioned that the SPVM will be speaking to DG students about Internet safety. These issues are also covered within the CCQ program in Cycles 2 and 3.
- Finally, the CPC members discussed a general decline in enrollment at several schools. DG's numbers, however, have remained stable over the course of the last few academic years.

7.2. DGFA Report

Mary Kyres presented on behalf of the DGFA. Mrs. Kyres confirmed that the Pizza Day and TCBY fundraisers are a huge success, with over 95% of students enrolled. The Big Box fundraiser was also highly successful, with 308 boxes sold and generating a profit of \$3,400. At the DGFA meeting held on November 13, 2024, parent members voted to cancel the Olive Oil fundraiser due to parents being over-solicited at this time of the year. Moreover, parent members voted to grant \$1000 to DG for the beautification of the school.



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

The DGFA will also be hosting the following holiday events in December 2024:

- Book Flood – December 16th
- Pancakes & Pyjamas Breakfast – December 17th
- Movie & Treat in the gym – December 20th

The DGFA will be offering an ECA program as of January 2025 through a third-party provider. DG Lunch monitor Miss Wendy would act as ECA Coordinator as was the case last year.

7.3. PPO Report

Kelly Chatzis presented on behalf of the PPO. The first meeting will be held on December 3, 2024. There are currently 12 parent members signed up for PPO. DG parents were asked to submit any concerns or issues to the PPO. The Principal confirmed that only issues that relate to a subject covered by the Education Project may be submitted to PPO, for example, the choice of school photographer, lunch caterer etc.

7.4. Marketing Committee

Mme Noémie presented on behalf of the Marketing Committee. DG's Open House will take place on December 16, 2024. There will be a morning and afternoon session. Marketing is currently underway to promote the event, including preparing flyers and brochures and advertising on social media platforms. Parents visiting the school will be offered a tour by a team of parents and Grade 6 students. Prospective parents will also be provided information about the DGFA, ECA and the school's enrichment programs. DG will showcase that its graduating students are often accepted in their high school program of choice, whether it be English or French.

7.5. Schoolyard Beautification Committee

Mary Kyres presented on behalf of the Schoolyard Beautification Committee. Various ideas have been brought forward, including building a track around the field, installing fitness equipment, creating a "parc-école" and/or building a soccer field. DG intends to build a shed to store recess equipment and toys.

EMSB School Commissioner Paula Kilian also provided comments. Mrs. Kilian is meeting with TMR Mayor Peter Malouf next week to discuss various options. The new field will likely be used by the TMR community outside of school hours. The new usage of the field will need to be approved by various entities, including Staff Council, GB, EMSB commissioners and TMR Council. Ultimately, the Minister of Education will make the final decision as to the usage of the DG field.

8. Question Period

The Board did not receive any questions.

9. Varia

No items or issues were raised.



Dunrae Gardens Elementary School Governing Board

235 DUNRAE AVENUE, MOUNT ROYAL, QUÉBEC, H3P 1T5 TEL: (514) 735-1916 FAX: (514) 735-7051

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned (Tina Lanni, Éric Pauzé) at 8:13 pm by unanimous consent.

Next meeting will be held virtually, on January 28, 2025

Approved by the GB on _____

Diana Theophilopoulos
Secretary

Alison Beck
Chair

Despina Michakis
Principal